

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /084 W
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R 062041Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7687

INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS 0647

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR, GW

SUBJECT: FO-DGB MEETING

1. IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION FROM GERMAN DGB THE ENTIRE
14-MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FORCE OUVRIERE VISITED
THE DGB HEADQUARTERS IN DUSSELDORF 29-30 NOVEMBER. THE
JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONVEYS CLEARLY THE IMPRESSION THAT
THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND SUCCESSFUL. EXCERPTS FROM
THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOW:

(A) "THE LONG AND FRANK DISCUSSION...REVEALED ONCE
AGAIN A GREAT IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS."

(B) "THE CURRENT QUESTIONS OF INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT
AND RELATIONS WITH LDCS WERE MAJOR SUBJECTS OF THE DIS-
CUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS. ONLY LARGE-
SCALE SOLUTIONS CAN REMEDY THE EXISTING GENERAL
CRISIS WHICH IS INDICATIVE OF THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF
WESTERN ECONOMIES. THUS SOLUTIONS ON A EUROPEAN
SCALE MAY BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR OF SUCCESS WHICH
MEANS THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NINE MUST TAKE THE
NECESSARY DECISIONS CONCERNING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC
AND MONETARY ISSUES."

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(C) THE COMMUNIQUE GOES ON TO WELCOME THE ELECTION

OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE WHICH
WOULD LEAD TO THE REBIRTH OF A LARGE PUBLIC OPINION
MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE.

(D) IN CONCLUSION THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS FOUND
THEMSELVES IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO THEIR
"BASIC CONCEPTIONS OF A TRADE UNIONISM BASED ON#

2. ANTOINE LAVAL, FO SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND UNDOUBTEDLY THE MORE SOPHISTI-
CATED MEMBER OF THE FO DELEGATION, CONFIRMED TO LABATT
THAT THE DUSSELDORF VISIT WAS EMINENTLY SUCCESSFUL.
HE BASED THIS ASSESSMENT NOT ONLY ON THE CORDIALITY
WITH WHICH THE FO GROUP WAS RECEIVED BUT ALSO ON THE
NATURE OF THE PRIVATE MEETING HE AND BERGERON HAD
WITH VETTER AND CHRISTOPHERSON IN WHICH BERGERON AND
VETTER HAD A HEART-TO-HEART TALK.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THAT MEETING VETTER SAID THAT HE
IS CURRENTLY ALLOWING THE CGT APPLICATION FOR ETUC
MEMBERSHIP TO DRAG ON INCONCLUSIVELY AS A MERE
TACTIC TO AVOID DIVISIONS WITHIN ETUC. HE CONFIDED,
HOWEVER, THAT EVEN IF A MAJORITY WERE TO DEVELOP IN
ETUC FAVORING CGT'S ADMISSION, THE DGB WILL RESIST
SUCH ADMISSION EVEN AT THE RISK OF FINDING ITSELF
ISOLATED WITHIN ETUC. ACCORDING TO LAVAL, VETTER
EXPLAINED THAT HIS STATEMENT WAS BEING DICTATED BY THE
GREAT MAJORITY OF THE DGB AFFILIATES WHICH ARE STRONGLY

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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OPPOSED TO CGT'S ENTRY INTO ETUC.

4. LAVAL CONFESSED THAT BOTH HE AND BERGERON HAD BEGUN TO HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT VETTER'S ATTITUDE BECAUSE HIS HANDLING OF THE CGT APPLICATION HAD CREATED THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS PLAYING FOR TIME WAITING FOR AN ETUC MAJORITY TO DEVELOP FAVORING CGT'S APPLICATION. THE DUSSELDORF VISIT HAS NOW DISPELLED THESE DOUBTS, SAID LAVAL.

5. LAVAL SAID ALSO THAT IT WAS HE WHO DRAFTED THE DGB-FO COMMUNIQUE AND THE GERMANS ACCEPTED IT WITH ONLY ONE CHANGE, NAMELY THE ELIMINATION OF A SENTENCE WHICH SPOKE ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF FO-DGB VIEWS ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO ICFTU AND ETUC. ANOTHER CHANGE THAT WAS MADE IN THE GERMAN TEXT ONLY WAS TO AVOID THE USE OF THE WORD "CRISIS" WHICH EXISTS IN THE FRENCH TEXT BECAUSE, AS THE GERMANS EXPLAINED, THIS EVOKES THE NOTION OF A "CRISIS OF CAPITALISM" DEAR TO COMMUNISTS BUT WHICH IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO FRG AUDIENCES AND DGB MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR.
RUSH

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